

Head Quarters 4th Maine Regt.

Oct. 23 1861

My Dear Gen.

The deserters Jackson & Prutcal
arrived at camp yesterday afternoon, amidst a
most pitiful rain storm, and in the most
degraded condition - their pitiful appearance
together with your kind note in their behalf has ex-
empted them from present punishment - I never
saw more humble men, glad indeed were they
to get back to their old quarters, and the rest
of the Regiment have learned a deeper lesson
from their pitiful & ragged condition than they
could learn from the bestowal of the sever-
est punishment inflicted on men otherwise clad
& better provided.

We have just finished another Foot
and Long Line of Rifle pits & have filled for during
the past two weeks hundreds of acres of trees
mostly white Oak. Each is Civil War - Old Vir-
ginia is being punished in a manner not to be
forgotten for one century at least.

I have taken no pains to commu-
nicate. We are now now ready to fight at any

time the Rebels deem it or whenever our
leader McClellan orders it, the whole army
is in fine condition. Maine troops so far
as I have seen them 3^d 4th & 5th are equal to
the best here. God Grant that we may
sustain the reputation of our gallant little
State when the day of trial comes -
at farthest, but few days distant

Col. Nickerson will have
seen you on this reaches you. The Col
has give him for the number of obtaining
recruits. Any assistance you will
bestow will be gratefully received by
myself & the entire Reg. & it will be re-
membered & recd. as a reference an op-
portunity offers. I desire to have the best
Reg. in service of Mass. & know the 4th is
as good as the best now. So says our Superior
Officer - Our drill & discipline is excellent

Let me hear from you when con-
venient

Yours truly

N. H. Berry

Gen. John L. Hodgson

Augustine Me